

WORKFORCE OBSERVATIONS FOR SOUTH CENTRAL WISCONSIN COUNTIES

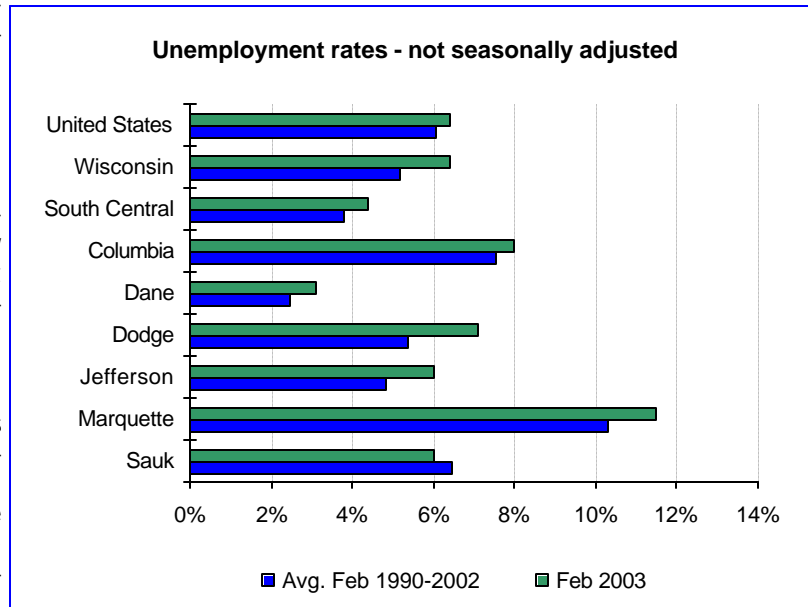
March 2003



State of Wisconsin
Department of Workforce Development

Employment-by-industry levels suggest shifts

In February, the nation, the state and five of the six South Central Wisconsin counties reported unemployment rates higher than the average of the February unemployment rates from 1990 to 2002. (See bar chart below.) Keeping with recent trends, Sauk was the only county in the area below its typical February unemployment rate. January-to-February unemployment rate changes were also fairly typical for the nation, the state and five of region's six counties. Dane County's unemployment rate climbed by smaller margin than it typically would in February. The state and all the other counties in the region reported lower unemployment rates this February than last February, while Dane County reported roughly the same unemployment rate this February as last February.



In Columbia County, the leisure and hospitality industry shed more jobs than any other in February, but comparing this February to last, it has been responsible for most of the jobs added in the last 12 months. February is usually a slow month for the manufacturing and trade sectors, but both had fewer jobs this February than last. This suggests that current economic conditions are adding to the strains of ordinary seasonal fluctuations.

Dane County was the only one in the South Central region to add a significant number of manufacturing jobs over the last 12 months, and it lost 200 manufacturing jobs between January and February. The leisure and hospitality industry posted strong growth over the month (450 jobs) and weak growth over the year

At first glance, numerical increases in government employment might appear large. (See table on the bottom of page 2.) These changes are typical and usually attributed to schools and colleges that typically shed workers during the December/January holiday season and resume previous employment levels within a few months.

(80 jobs). Professional and business service growth remains surprisingly robust both in monthly terms (330 jobs) and in annual terms (2,200 jobs). The smaller-than-typical drop in retail jobs may be attributable to the fact that Dane County retailer added fewer employees than usual for much of the second half of 2002.

Labor force estimates - not seasonally adjusted

	Wisconsin			South Central			Columbia			Dane		
	Feb 2003	1-month change	1-year change	Feb 2003	1-month change	1-year change	Feb 2003	1-month change	1-year change	Feb 2003	1-month change	1-year change
Civilian Labor Force*	3,080,300	12,800	67,600	448,300	3,600	12,200	28,400	90	730	287,800	3,800	9,800
Employed	2,881,800	6,600	74,300	428,400	3,000	12,200	26,200	-50	750	279,000	3,700	9,600
Unemployed	198,500	6,200	-6,680	19,900	590	-40	2,300	130	-10	8,800	160	150
Unemployment rate (%)	6.4	0.1	-0.4	4.4	0.1	-0.2	8.0	0.5	-0.2	3.1	0.1	0.0
	Dodge			Jefferson			Marquette			Sauk		
	Feb 2003	1-month change	1-year change	Feb 2003	1-month change	1-year change	Feb 2003	1-month change	1-year change	Feb 2003	1-month change	1-year change
Civilian Labor Force*	46,000	-90	-140	42,500	-80	350	7,700	10	210	36,000	-110	1,250
Employed	42,700	-260	30	40,000	-110	410	6,800	-10	190	33,900	-180	1,210
Unemployed	3,200	180	-170	2,600	30	-60	880	20	20	2,200	70	40
Unemployment rate (%)	7.1	0.4	-0.3	6.0	0.1	-0.2	11.5	0.3	-0.1	6.0	0.2	-0.1

* Includes labor force participants residing in area. Estimates are **NOT** seasonally adjusted. Current month estimates are preliminary. Numbers 2,000 and greater are rounded to nearest 100. Numbers under 2,000 are rounded to nearest 10. Sub-units may not add to totals due to rounding. Calculations are based on unrounded numbers. Results are rounded. For more information call (608) 242-4885 or email dan.barroilhet@dwd.state.wi.us

Dodge County continues to face challenges associated with a manufacturing sector that lost more jobs than usual over the last month and over the last year. If prominent metal fabricator Maysteel goes through with plans to close its Mayville plant, manufacturing numbers will probably look worse next month. It is not surprising that the trade sector has also taken a hit. Unfortunately, available numbers do not indicate how retail trade employment trends compare to wholesale trade employment trends. (This level of detail is available for metropolitan areas only.)

In February, Jefferson County's trade sector typically loses jobs, probably due to retail trade employers shedding workers shortly after tabulating post-holiday inventories. Still, the trade sector added over 200 jobs between February 2002 and February 2003. The January-to-February decline in manufacturing employment is only slightly larger than usual, but 1-year change points to dramatic reductions in October (?500 jobs) and November (?300 jobs). Over the year, Jefferson County has lost roughly 160 education and health services jobs. Skill sets and pay scales in these sectors are often more stronger than in two sectors that grew: retail, and leisure and hospitality.

Similar concerns arise in Sauk County, where the only private sector industry posting significant job gains over the year was leisure and hospitality. Education and health services stagnated and the category of information, professional, business and other services lost roughly 470 jobs over 12 months. Manufacturing and trade sectors lost more jobs than they usu-

ally do in February and remain below last February's levels, showing little sign of strong, sustained recovery. All other things equal, Sauk County's low unemployment rate would be encouraging, but the employment by industry figures below suggest increased reliance on leisure and hospitality.

Assistance sought from multi - location employers

Employers with operations in worksites in more than one Wisconsin county who do not report the number of workers at each location are requested to complete a Multiple Worksite Report (MWR). The MWR is sent to employers during the first quarter by the **Bureau of Workforce Information** and supplement the data that employers provide on the Unemployment Insurance Quarterly Contribution Report.

Similar to the unemployment report, the employment and wage data collected in this survey is confidential and used only for statistical and analytical studies, Unemployment Insurance Program purposes, and the Dislocated Worker Program. Employers benefit because data (like that in the table below) can be used to assist business planners with selecting new sites, economic forecasting, and wage analysis.

For more information, or assistance on the MWR, contact **Deborah Holt** at (608) 266-5321

Industry employment estimates - not seasonally adjusted

	Wisconsin			South Central			Columbia			Dane		
	Feb 2003	1-month change	1-year change	Feb 2003	1-month change	1-year change	Feb 2003	1-month change	1-year change	Feb 2003	1-month change	1-year change
Total jobs, all industries**	2,731,200	10,200	13,400	420,700	3,900	4,100	20,600	10	220	294,700	4,100	3,800
Const., min'g & nat. resources	105,500	-3,000	-3,500	18,100	-60	-440	980	-10	30	12,600	50	-480
Manufacturing	516,700	-3,800	-9,300	60,800	-400	-150	4,700	-20	-100	28,600	-200	1,680
Trade (wholesale & retail)	421,100	-4,600	-1,450	59,300	-490	-1,360	3,000	10	-130	40,200	-230	-850
Transport, Warehous, Utilities	104,000	290	1,840	10,600	-160	-190	650	0	-10	31,200	190	400
Financial activities	153,000	-160	1,230	28,300	130	280	570	0	20	24,700	160	380
Education & health services	360,800	2,800	8,500	43,500	240	1,200	2,500	-10	0	28,600	180	1,100
Leisure & hospitality	223,600	-2,200	2,900	38,400	440	2,800	2,300	-50	380	23,200	450	80
Info, prof, & other services	422,200	500	10,400	66,700	410	1,960	1,910	-30	-60	54,900	490	2,800
Government	424,300	20,300	2,800	95,000	3,800	60	3,900	140	90	75,000	3,300	-690

	Dodge			Jefferson			Marquette			Sauk		
	Feb 2003	1-month change	1-year change	Feb 2003	1-month change	1-year change	Feb 2003	1-month change	1-year change	Feb 2003	1-month change	1-year change
Total jobs, all industries**	32,200	-110	-420	34,900	-30	-260	3,700	30	110	34,600	-60	690
Const., min'g & nat. resources	1,900	-40	50	1,050	-40	10	100	0	-30	1,520	-20	-20
Manufacturing	10,200	-90	-690	9,700	-50	-510	1,300	0	100	6,200	-40	-610
Trade (wholesale & retail)	3,800	-70	-170	5,900	-80	220	440	-10	40	5,900	-100	-470
Transport, Warehous, Utilities	980	10	0	1,190	-10	-30	40	0	-10	750	-20	30
Financial activities	700	-10	-30	940	-10	30	110	0	0	1,340	0	-110
Education & health services	4,200	20	250	4,500	40	-160	290	0	-10	3,300	0	20
Leisure & hospitality	2,400	-10	180	3,000	-20	120	390	20	30	7,200	40	1,990
Info, prof, & other services	2,700	10	-180	4,300	-60	-70	230	10	-40	2,700	-10	-470
Government	5,400	80	180	4,300	200	120	840	10	30	5,600	90	340

**Includes jobs with employers in area. Estimates are NOT seasonally adjusted. Current month estimates are preliminary.
Numbers 2,000 and greater are rounded to nearest 100. Numbers under 2,000 are rounded to nearest 10. Sub-units may not add to totals due to rounding